

FREMONT CABLE STUDY COMMITTEE MEETING - JULY 10, 2007  
MEETING MINUTES

**Approved by the Committee on July 24, 2007**

Attendees:

Brande McLean- Chairman  
Peter Bearse  
Tom McGall  
Neil Janvrin  
Warren Yee  
Larry Morse  
Keith Stanton

Linda Stanton-taking meeting minutes

Meeting came to order at 7:33PM at the Safety Complex  
New Committee Member, Larry Morse, was introduced.

Old Business:

1. Review minutes of June, 26 2007 meeting.  
Stanton asked that the minutes be revised to say that he did **NOT** suggest that meetings may have to last longer than one hour. He remembers that he said that they should be one hour or **less**. Members agreed to revise that part of the record.
2. Brande indicated that she had sent out invitations to all the groups on the list provided by Town Hall for the July 17 meeting. Neil said that he had not received one for the P.D. Brande said that the Health Agent has responded that she can not attend. The Girl Scouts have responded that they will attend.
3. Discussion on increasing the frequency that tapes are played on Channel from Wednesday at 7PM and Saturday at noon to; everyday at 7PM and Sat. at noon. Stanton will contact Comcast for feasibility of this and Committee will notify Selectmen. There was discussion that the playback schedule should be posted in the Town Newsletter. All voted in favor.

New Business:

1. There was discussion about what percentage of Town meetings are held at Town Hall, Ellis School, Library and Safety Complex. It was agreed that most meetings are held at Town Hall. The "costs" of installing equipment at these sites was discussed.

Mbr. McGall said that the Selectmen have indicated that they are not in favor of spending ANY taxpayer money for any Comcast equipment/service. He also said that during the recent floods, information about road closures in Town could have been posted on channel 22 which would have informed the public. Mbr. Morse said that any franchise fees might go into the general fund unless a special account was set up. Mbr. Janvrin said a "Special Revenue Account" could be set up but that would take two years for the money to be available to use. Mbr. Stanton said that this is what we tried to do by Warrant article this year but, the people who were at that Annual Town Meeting voted not to support starting that Capitol Reserve Fund of \$400. He said, that the people at that meeting did not want to spend "ANY" money for a Town Cable Channel. Mbr. Bearse

brought up that one Selectman has said that he would like to see a building built at the ball fields for live broadcast of sports events. He wondered who would pay for that (building). Mbr. Janvrin said that we can accept equipment but not revenue from Comcast if there is no special revenue account. Mbr. Stanton said that any equipment received by the town should remain the property of Comcast so that repairs/upgrades would not cost the Town anything.

At 8:00, Peg Pinkham came in. She indicated that she had just left a School Board meeting and had to go back to it. Pinkham indicated that she had not seen or received an invitation to the July 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

There was general discussion about where the \$.02 "franchise fee", that is added to every Comcast subscribers bill each month, goes.

Chairman McClean asked for people to go to surrounding Towns and contact their Local Access Committees to see how they operate.

Mbr. Stanton said that he has already done that with Danville. Danville's station is run with no taxpayer's money. Mbr. Morse said that 3% to 5% of the bill can be returned to the Town in the form of a check each year. Mbr. Janvrin said that the Comcast survey clearly shows that the subscribers do not want to pay much extra on their bills. Mbr. Yee said that he will contact Raymond. Mbr. McGall said he will contact Chester. Mbr. Janvrin said he will contact Epping. Mbr Morse will contact Atkinson.

2. Chairman McClean said that "refreshments" should be served on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Everyone agreed.
3. Peg Pinkham asked about our schedule of meetings and wondered if the meeting could be changed to another night. She was told that we voted on Tuesday nights.
4. Chairman McClean said that due to the large number of groups invited to the meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup>, guests/committees might have to be limited to 5 minutes of discussion, each.
5. Pinkham indicated that the School Board was very interested in an educational channel and that they have talked to the Bedford School Board about training.
6. Mbr. Stanton discussed that the "information packet" that the Selectmen gave to everyone indicates that this committee should be a, "CABLE RENEWAL COMMITTEE" with the authority to "NEGOTIATE THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE RENEWAL LICENSE ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD". He said that as of now, we are being referred to as "A group of interested citizens" and "a citizens group" and a "citizen advisory committee". Mbr. Morse said that there would also have to be a committee in place to take over once the contract negotiations are done. A motion was made by Mbr. Stanton and seconded by Mbr. Morse to follow the terms and guidelines in the information packet. It was voted on and passed that the Selectmen should be asked to agree that we are a CABLE CONTRACT RENEWAL COMMITTEE.

7. A motion was made by Mbr. Morse to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Stanton. All those present voted in favor.

8. Meeting adjourned at 8:36 PM

Submitted by:  
Linda Stanton